

Summary

Contents



What's New

Highlights news, reviews and developments.

Labour Market Summary

An overview of key labour market indicators: changes and time series graphs.

Labour Statistics News

What's happening in the Labour Statistics program?

Recent Releases

What has been released recently? What will be released in the next three months?

Articles and Analysis

A list of articles on labour statistics. Recently released:
Employment level estimates versus employment to population explained
Exploring Labour Force Data on joblessness
Underemployment patterns and the Global Financial Crisis (GFC)
Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics



Find Out More

Want to find out more about ABS labour statistics? Contacts, training courses and ABS labour statistics publications.

Labour Market Summary



LABOUR MARKET SUMMARY April 2012

Summary of Australia's key labour market indicators.

Key Measures

	Units	Series	Period	Current figure	% Change from Previous qtr(a)	% Change from Previous year(b)
Scope						
Civilian population	'000	Original	Feb 12	18518.4	0.3	1.2
Labour force	'000	Trend	Feb 12	12069.7	0.0	0.3
Employed						
Persons	'000	Trend	Feb 12	11444.6	0.0	0.1
Full-time	'000	Trend	Feb 12	8059.7	0.2	0.0
Part-time	'000	Trend	Feb 12	3384.9	-0.3	0.2
Employed persons who work part-time						
Persons	%	Trend	Feb 12	29.6	(c)-0.1	(c)0.0
Males	%	Trend	Feb 12	16.2	(c)-0.1	(c)0.0
Females	%	Trend	Feb 12	45.6	(c)-0.1	(c)0.0
Unemployed						
Persons	'000	Trend	Feb 12	625.0	-0.9	4.5
Looking for full-time work	'000	Trend	Feb 12	446.5	-1.5	6.2
Looking for part-time work	'000	Trend	Feb 12	178.6	0.8	0.5
Long-term unemployed	'000	Trend	Feb 12	117.5	0.8	2.0
Labour force participation rates						
Persons aged 15 and over	%	Original	Feb 12	65.5	(c)0.3	(c)-0.5
Persons aged 15-24	%	Original	Feb 12	69.5	(c)3.2	(c)-1.2
Persons aged 25-64	%	Original	Feb 12	78.6	(c)-0.2	(c)-0.3
Persons aged 65 and over	%	Original	Feb 12	11.4	(c)-0.2	(c)0.8
Employment to population ratio						
Persons	%	Trend	Feb 12	61.8	(c)-0.2	(c)-0.7
Males	%	Trend	Feb 12	68.3	(c)-0.2	(c)-0.9
Females	%	Trend	Feb 12	55.5	(c)-0.2	(c)-0.4
Labour underutilisation						
Labour force underutilisation rate	%	Trend	Feb 12	12.6	(c)0.1	(c)0.5
Unemployment rate	%	Trend	Feb 12	5.2	(c)0.0	(c)0.2
Underemployment rate	%	Trend	Feb 12	7.3	(c)0.1	(c)0.3
Volume measures of labour underutilisation						
Volume labour force underutilisation rate	%	Original	Aug 10	7.0	na	(c)-0.8
Volume unemployment rate	%	Original	Aug 10	4.2	na	(c)-0.6
Volume underemployment rate	%	Original	Aug 10	2.8	na	(c)-0.2
Part-time employed who are underemployed						
Persons	%	Original	Sep 11	24.2	na	(c)-0.5
Males	%	Original	Sep 11	30.4	na	(c)-1.7
Females	%	Original	Sep 11	21.5	na	(c)-0.1
Not in the labour force						
Persons	'000	Original	Feb 12	6398.1	-0.5	2.8

Males	'000	Original	Feb 12	2539.4	-1.2	4.2
Females	'000	Original	Feb 12	3858.7	-0.1	1.9
Aggregate monthly hours worked						
Persons	Mil. hours	Trend	Feb 12	1608.8	-0.5	0.2
Males	Mil. hours	Trend	Feb 12	987.6	-0.5	0.0
Females	Mil. hours	Trend	Feb 12	621.2	-0.4	0.8
Average actual weekly hours worked						
Persons	hours	Original	Feb 12	34.2	(d)0.3	(d)0.0
Full-time	hours	Original	Feb 12	41.1	(d)0.0	(d)-0.1
Part-time	hours	Original	Feb 12	17.1	(d)0.0	(d)0.1
Average weekly earnings						
All employees total earnings	\$	Trend	Nov 11	(e)1033.3	0.7	3.9
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings	\$	Trend	Nov 11	(e)1333.4	1.0	4.7
Full-time adult total earnings	\$	Trend	Nov 11	(e)1389.5	1.0	4.8
Median hourly earnings (f)						
Persons	\$	Original	May 10	(e) 25.50	na	(g) 5.6
Males	\$	Original	May 10	(e) 26.70	na	(g) 4.6
Females	\$	Original	May 10	(e) 24.70	na	(g) 7.0
Wage price index						
Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses	index	Trend	Dec 11	110.4	0.9	3.7
Employees who are trade union members in main job						
Persons	%	Original	Aug 10	18.3	na	(c)-1.4
Males	%	Original	Aug 10	17.9	na	(c)-2.2
Females	%	Original	Aug 10	18.7	na	(c)-0.5
Employees(h) without paid leave entitlements of total employed						
Persons	%	Original	Nov 10	19.8	na	(c)-0.6
Males	%	Original	Nov 10	16.2	na	(c)-0.2
Females	%	Original	Nov 10	24.2	na	(c)-1.0
Methods of setting pay - all employees						
Award only	%	Original	May 10	15.2	na	(c)(g)-1.3
Collective agreement	%	Original	May 10	43.4	na	(c)(g) 3.6
Individual arrangement	%	Original	May 10	37.3	na	(c)(g)-1.4
Owner managers of incorporated enterprises	%	Original	May 10	4.1	na	(c)(g)-0.9
Industrial disputes						
Working days lost	'000	Original	Dec 11	54.3	-46.4	99.6
Working days lost per 1,000 employees	no.	Original	Dec 11	5.3	-47.5	96.3
Average working days lost per employee(i)	'000	Original	Sep 11	131.9	499.5	158.6
Job vacancies						
Australia	'000	Trend	Feb 12	182.2	-0.3	-3.9
Private sector	'000	Trend	Feb 12	165.3	-0.2	-3.7
Public sector	'000	Trend	Feb 12	16.9	-1.5	-6.0
Labour force status of families						
Children living without an employed parent(j)	%	Original	Jun 11	14.0	na	(c) 0.0

na not available

(a) Same period previous quarter (monthly data is presented for the middle month of each quarter).

(b) Same period previous year.

(c) Change is in percentage points.

(d) Change is in hours worked.

(e) Estimates are rounded to the nearest 10 cents.

(f) Median non-managerial adult hourly ordinary time cash earnings.

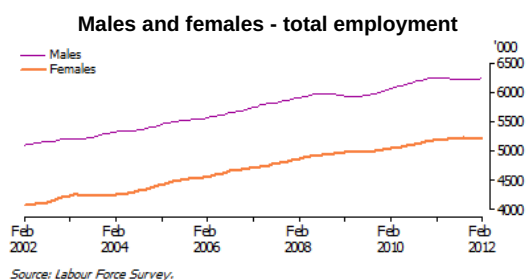
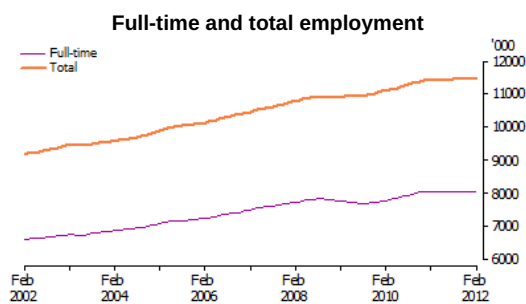
(g) Same period two years ago.

(h) Excludes owner managers of incorporated enterprises.

(i) Industrial disputes which ended during the period.

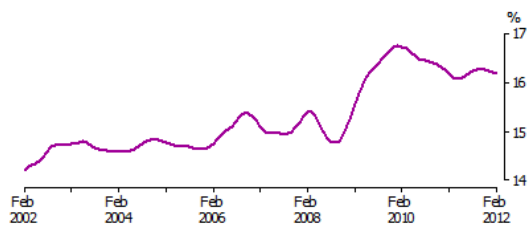
(j) As a proportion of all children aged under 15 years.

EMPLOYMENT: TREND SERIES



PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT: TREND SERIES

Proportion of total employment, Males



Source: Labour Force Survey.

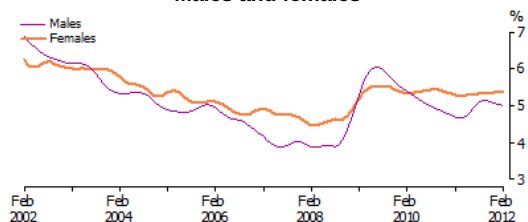
Proportion of total employment, Females



Source: Labour Force Survey.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: TREND SERIES

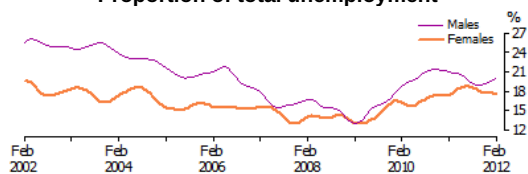
Males and females



Source: Labour Force Survey.

LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT^(a): TREND SERIES

Proportion of total unemployment

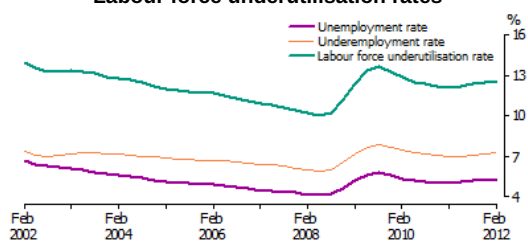


(a) The number of persons unemployed for 52 weeks or over.

Source: Labour Force Survey.

UNDERUTILISED LABOUR: TREND SERIES

Labour force underutilisation rates



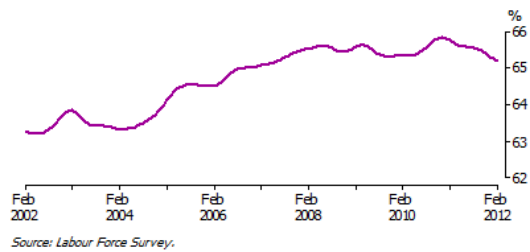
(a) The trend quarterly unemployment rate shown in this graph is subject to a separate seasonal adjustment and trend process and may differ from the official monthly unemployment rate.

Note: See the Glossary for further information on the labour underutilisation rates.

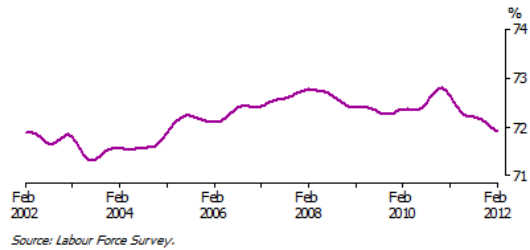
Source: Labour Force Survey.

PARTICIPATION RATE: TREND SERIES

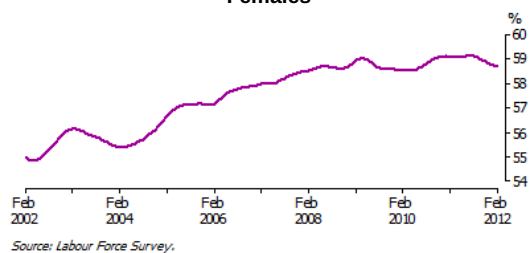
Persons



Males

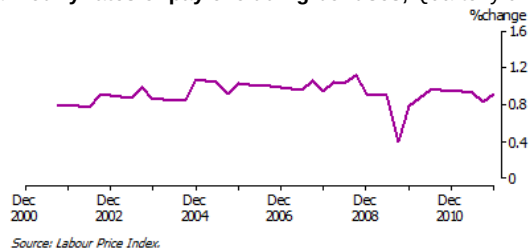


Females



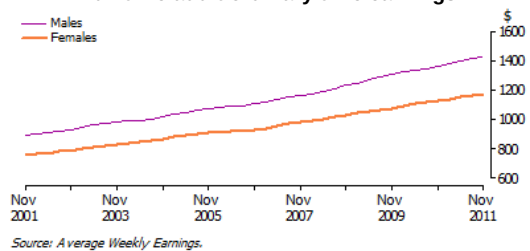
WAGE PRICE INDEX: TREND SERIES

Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses, Quarterly change



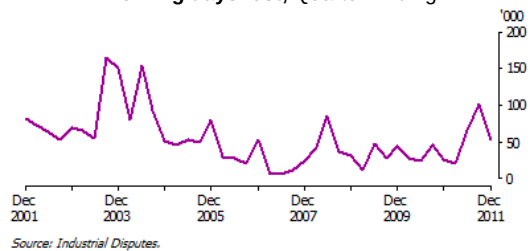
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS: TREND SERIES

Full time adult ordinary time earnings



INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: ORIGINAL SERIES

Working days lost, Quarter Ending



This publication provides information about the latest developments in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) labour statistics program, highlighting new and upcoming releases of ABS labour data or changes to these series.

It presents a broad level summary of key labour market measures, contains analyses of labour market issues, and resources on how to understand and interpret labour market statistics.

Expanded Contents

CONTENTS

What's New
Labour Market Summary
Labour Statistics News
Changes to Average Weekly Earnings
Recently Released Supplementary Surveys on Labour Topics
Review of Topics @ a Glance - Labour
Recent Conferences, Workshops and Events
Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods
Recent and Upcoming Releases
Articles and Analysis
Article archive
Find Out More
Contact Us
About the ABS labour statistics program
Introduction to Labour Statistics training course
Related publications

What's New

[Contents >> What's New](#)



WHAT'S NEW?

Welcome to the latest issue of Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0), a publication which helps you stay informed about key labour market measures and the latest developments in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) labour statistics program. Each issue contains a Labour Market Summary with both the latest key figures and a range of time series graphs.

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

This issue highlights some news from the ABS labour statistics program, including release advice of recently released labour related supplementary surveys:

- Underemployed Workers, Australia (cat. no. 6265.0) and
- Persons Not in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6220.0).

See the Labour Statistics News page for more details on these developments.

Upcoming changes to Australian Labour Market Statistics

The July 2012 issue of Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0) will be the final regular quarterly issue of this publication. In addition, there will be further changes to the content for that issue, with the majority of the content, such as Summary Measures, Glossary and Explanatory Notes, being removed. The publication will continue on an irregular basis to publish data tables that are not contained in other standard ABS products until such time as they are incorporated in other ABS standard products. Updates on labour market statistical developments, analytical articles and future news will be available through the Labour Topics @ a Glance page.

If you would like further information about the upcoming changes to Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0) please contact Kirsty Leslie on (02) 6252 5436 or email kirsty.leslie@abs.gov.au.

FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS

If you have any questions about aspects of the labour statistics program, you can contact us on (02) 6252 7206 or email labour.statistics@abs.gov.au.

The Find out more page contains further information and contact details.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Labour Market Summary

[Contents >> Labour Market Summary](#)



LABOUR MARKET SUMMARY April 2012

Summary of Australia's key labour market indicators.

Key Measures

	Units	Series	Period	Current figure	% Change from Previous qtr(a)	% Change from Previous year(b)
Scope						
Civilian population	'000	Original	Feb 12	18518.4	0.3	1.2
Labour force	'000	Trend	Feb 12	12069.7	0.0	0.3
Employed						
Persons	'000	Trend	Feb 12	11444.6	0.0	0.1
Full-time	'000	Trend	Feb 12	8059.7	0.2	0.0
Part-time	'000	Trend	Feb 12	3384.9	-0.3	0.2
Employed persons who work part-time						
Persons	%	Trend	Feb 12	29.6	(c)-0.1	(c)0.0
Males	%	Trend	Feb 12	16.2	(c)-0.1	(c)0.0
Females	%	Trend	Feb 12	45.6	(c)-0.1	(c)0.0
Unemployed						
Persons	'000	Trend	Feb 12	625.0	-0.9	4.5
Looking for full-time work	'000	Trend	Feb 12	446.5	-1.5	6.2
Looking for part-time work	'000	Trend	Feb 12	178.6	0.8	0.5
Long-term unemployed	'000	Trend	Feb 12	117.5	0.8	2.0
Labour force participation rates						
Persons aged 15 and over	%	Original	Feb 12	65.5	(c)0.3	(c)-0.5
Persons aged 15-24	%	Original	Feb 12	69.5	(c)3.2	(c)-1.2
Persons aged 25-64	%	Original	Feb 12	78.6	(c)-0.2	(c)-0.3
Persons aged 65 and over	%	Original	Feb 12	11.4	(c)-0.2	(c)0.8
Employment to population ratio						
Persons	%	Trend	Feb 12	61.8	(c)-0.2	(c)-0.7
Males	%	Trend	Feb 12	68.3	(c)-0.2	(c)-0.9
Females	%	Trend	Feb 12	55.5	(c)-0.2	(c)-0.4
Labour underutilisation						
Labour force underutilisation rate	%	Trend	Feb 12	12.6	(c)0.1	(c)0.5
Unemployment rate	%	Trend	Feb 12	5.2	(c)0.0	(c)0.2
Underemployment rate	%	Trend	Feb 12	7.3	(c)0.1	(c)0.3
Volume measures of labour underutilisation						
Volume labour force underutilisation rate	%	Original	Aug 10	7.0	na	(c)-0.8
Volume unemployment rate	%	Original	Aug 10	4.2	na	(c)-0.6
Volume underemployment rate	%	Original	Aug 10	2.8	na	(c)-0.2
Part-time employed who are underemployed						
Persons	%	Original	Sep 11	24.2	na	(c)-0.5
Males	%	Original	Sep 11	30.4	na	(c)-1.7
Females	%	Original	Sep 11	21.5	na	(c)-0.1
Not in the labour force						
Persons	'000	Original	Feb 12	6398.1	-0.5	2.8
Males	'000	Original	Feb 12	2539.4	-1.2	4.2
Females	'000	Original	Feb 12	3858.7	-0.1	1.9
Aggregate monthly hours worked						
Persons	Mil. hours	Trend	Feb 12	1608.8	-0.5	0.2
Males	Mil. hours	Trend	Feb 12	987.6	-0.5	0.0
Females	Mil. hours	Trend	Feb 12	621.2	-0.4	0.8
Average actual weekly hours worked						
Persons	hours	Original	Feb 12	34.2	(d)0.3	(d)0.0
Full-time	hours	Original	Feb 12	41.1	(d)0.0	(d)-0.1
Part-time	hours	Original	Feb 12	17.1	(d)0.0	(d)0.1
Average weekly earnings						
All employees total earnings	\$	Trend	Nov 11	(e)1033.3	0.7	3.9
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings	\$	Trend	Nov 11	(e)1333.4	1.0	4.7
Full-time adult total earnings	\$	Trend	Nov 11	(e)1389.5	1.0	4.8
Median hourly earnings (f)						
Persons	\$	Original	May 10	(e) 25.50	na	(g) 5.6
Males	\$	Original	May 10	(e) 26.70	na	(g) 4.6
Females	\$	Original	May 10	(e) 24.70	na	(g) 7.0
Wage price index						
Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses	index	Trend	Dec 11	110.4	0.9	3.7
Employees who are trade union members in main job						
Persons	%	Original	Aug 10	18.3	na	(c)-1.4
Males	%	Original	Aug 10	17.9	na	(c)-2.2
Females	%	Original	Aug 10	18.7	na	(c)-0.5
Employees(h) without paid leave entitlements of total employed						
Persons	%	Original	Nov 10	19.8	na	(c)-0.6
Males	%	Original	Nov 10	16.2	na	(c)-0.2
Females	%	Original	Nov 10	24.2	na	(c)-1.0
Methods of setting pay - all employees						
Award only	%	Original	May 10	15.2	na	(c)(g)-1.3
Collective agreement	%	Original	May 10	43.4	na	(c)(g) 3.6
Individual arrangement	%	Original	May 10	37.3	na	(c)(g)-1.4
Owner managers of incorporated enterprises	%	Original	May 10	4.1	na	(c)(g)-0.9
Industrial disputes						
Working days lost	'000	Original	Dec 11	54.3	-46.4	99.6
Working days lost per 1,000 employees	no.	Original	Dec 11	5.3	-47.5	96.3
Average working days lost per employee(i)	'000	Original	Sep 11	131.9	499.5	158.6
Job vacancies						
Australia	'000	Trend	Feb 12	182.2	-0.3	-3.9
Private sector	'000	Trend	Feb 12	165.3	-0.2	-3.7
Public sector	'000	Trend	Feb 12	16.9	-1.5	-6.0
Labour force status of families						

na not available

(a) Same period previous quarter (monthly data is presented for the middle month of each quarter).

(b) Same period previous year.

(c) Change is in percentage points.

(d) Change is in hours worked.

(e) Estimates are rounded to the nearest 10 cents.

(f) Median non-managerial adult hourly ordinary time cash earnings.

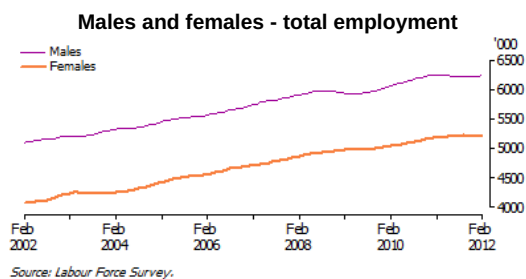
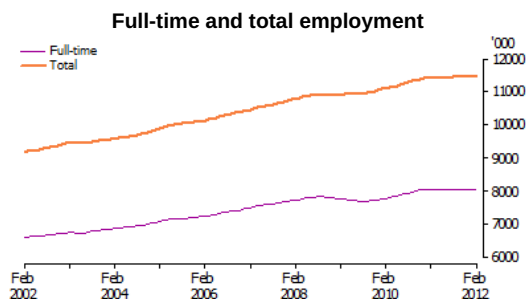
(g) Same period two years ago.

(h) Excludes owner managers of incorporated enterprises.

(i) Industrial disputes which ended during the period.

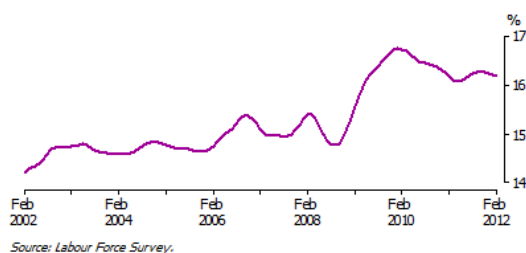
(j) As a proportion of all children aged under 15 years.

EMPLOYMENT: TREND SERIES

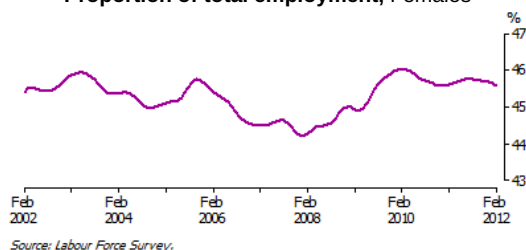


PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT: TREND SERIES

Proportion of total employment, Males

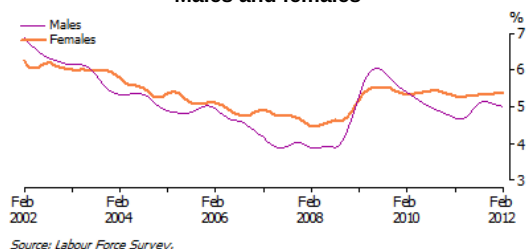


Proportion of total employment, Females

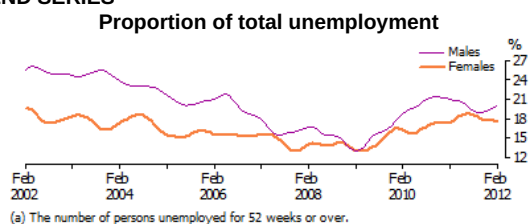


UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: TREND SERIES

Males and females

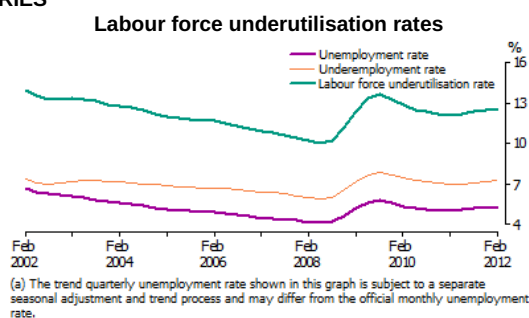


LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT^(a): TREND SERIES



Source: Labour Force Survey.

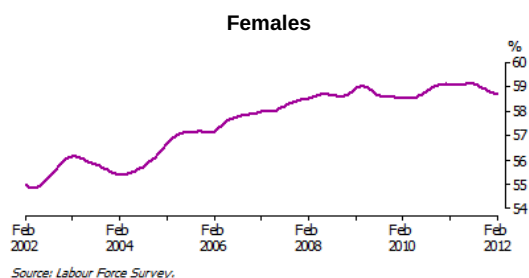
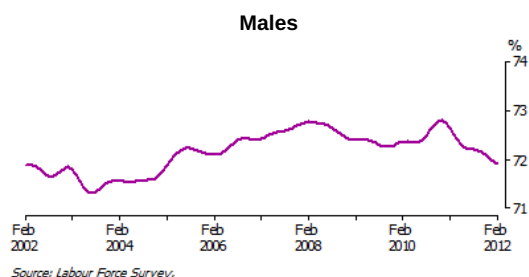
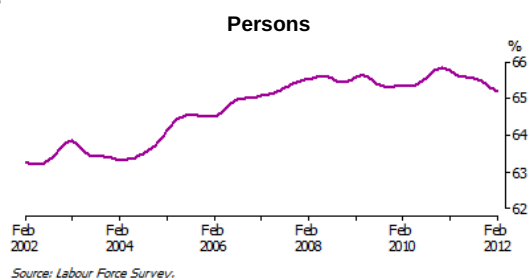
UNDERUTILISED LABOUR: TREND SERIES



Note: See the Glossary for further information on the labour underutilisation rates.

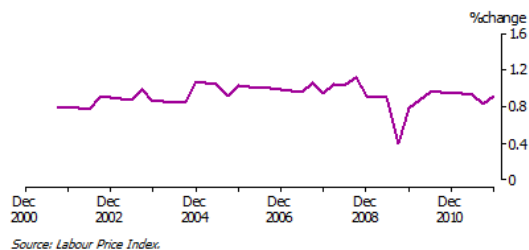
Source: Labour Force Survey.

PARTICIPATION RATE: TREND SERIES

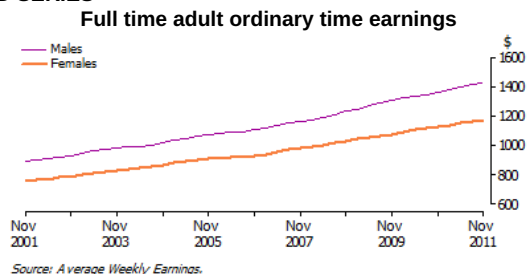


WAGE PRICE INDEX: TREND SERIES

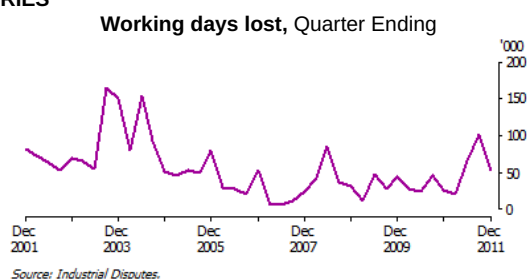
Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses, Quarterly change



AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS: TREND SERIES



INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: ORIGINAL SERIES



[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Labour Statistics News

[Contents >> Labour Statistics News](#)



LABOUR STATISTICS NEWS

The Australian Bureau of Statistics is undertaking a range of work to improve the relevance of labour market statistics and promote the effective use of these statistics. Labour Statistics News provides an overview of this work including contacts for further information. This section also includes details of the release of new statistical products by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

This section contains the following subsection :

- Changes to Average Weekly Earnings
- Recently Released Supplementary Surveys on Labour Topics
- Review of Topics @ a Glance - Labour
- Recent Conferences, Workshops and Events
- Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Changes to Average Weekly Earnings

[Contents >> Labour Statistics News >> Changes to Average Weekly Earnings](#)

CHANGES TO AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

FREQUENCY CHANGE OF AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

The frequency of the average weekly earnings series will change from quarterly to biannual in 2012. The May 2012 publication will be the last quarterly issue (released in August 2012), with the November 2012 publication the first produced on a biannual basis (released in February 2013). From 2013 onwards, AWE data will be produced twice a year relating to the May and November quarters. This was first advised to users in the May 2011 issue of Average Weekly Earnings (cat. no. 6302.0), providing a fifteen month notice period to ensure AWE users have sufficient notice of the change. The collection methodology will not change - data will be collected for the reference week ending the third Friday of the third week of the middle month of the quarter, and released on the same basis as before for the two remaining

quarters.

RELEASE OF AVERAGE WEEKLY CASH EARNINGS SERIES

The average weekly cash earnings series inclusive of salary sacrifice has been released since the May 2011 issue of Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat. no. 6302.0) and is available on the ABS Website Downloads tab of this release, under the data cubes heading. An information paper titled Information Paper: Release of Average Weekly Cash Earnings Series (cat. no. 6302.0.55.003) was released on 21 July 2011 outlining the background to the series, the classifications and time periods to be released, and where to find the data on the website.

An assessment of the feasibility of releasing seasonally adjusted and trend estimates determined that seasonal factors remain present and can be calculated on a biannual basis. However, it should be noted that calculating seasonally adjusted and trend estimates using only two points of measurements each year, rather than the four points available in a quarterly survey, will likely result in a change in the level of these series.

An information paper containing further details about these change is due to be released in mid April 2012 and will be available on the ABS website.

If you would like further information about the forthcoming changes to Average Weekly Earnings statistics please contact the Manager, Survey of Average Weekly Earnings on Perth (08) 9360 5304.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Recently Released Supplementary Surveys on Labour Topics

Of the 11.5 million employed people aged 15 years and over in September 2011, 10.6 million were fully employed and 879,000 were not fully employed, of whom 786,800 were underemployed.

Of the 786,800 underemployed workers, 722,600 usually worked part-time, but would prefer more hours and were available to start work with more hours either in the reference week, or in the four weeks following the interview; and 64,300 usually worked full-time, but worked part-time hours in the reference week due to economic reasons (for example, no work or not enough work available, been stood down, or on short time). More details are available from the publication.

RELEASE OF PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE

In March 2012, the ABS released Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia, Sep 2011 (cat. no. 6220.0) which presents information about people aged 15 years and over who are not in the labour force: that is, neither employed nor unemployed. The data measure the potential supply of labour not reflected in employment and unemployment statistics, and measure the characteristics of that potential supply. Information collected in the survey includes details about whether people not in the labour force wanted to work, reasons why they were not actively looking for work, or were not available for work, and their main activity while not in the labour force.

In September 2011, there were almost 6 million people aged 15 years and over who were not in the labour force. This represented 33% of the civilian population aged 15 years and over. Since September 2008, people aged 15 years and over who were not in the labour force comprised approximately one-third of the civilian population.

Of those people not in the labour force:

- 60% were women;
- 22% wanted to work (23% of women not in the labour force and 20% of men not in the labour force); and
- 16% were aged 15-24 years, 40% were aged 25-64 years and 31% were aged 70 years and over.

More details are available from the publication

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Review of Topics @ a Glance - Labour

[Contents >> Labour Statistics News >> Review of Topics @ a Glance - Labour](#)

REVIEW OF TOPICS @ A GLANCE - LABOUR

This year, a number of changes are planned for the Labour Topics @ a Glance pages on the ABS website. These pages provide a guide to the full range of ABS statistics on the labour market, as well as links to the latest data releases. The revised Topics @ a Glance page will organise labour statistics topics thematically, assisting users in quickly and easily finding the information and data they require. To find Topics @ a Glance, go to <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> [Topics @ a Glance > People > Labour].

If you would like further information about the upcoming changes to Topics @ a Glance - Labour please contact James Mowle on (02) 6252 7252 or email <james.mowle@abs.gov.au>.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Recent Conferences, Workshops and Events

[Contents >> Labour Statistics News >> Recent Conferences, Workshops and Events](#)



RECENT CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

Staff from the ABS Labour Statistics Program have recently been involved in a number of conferences, workshops and events, including:

- Introduction to Labour Statistics training
- Australian Labour Market Research Workshop

INTRODUCTION TO LABOUR STATISTICS TRAINING

This course is designed for anyone who uses or needs to understand ABS Labour Statistics. The course provides an overview of the range of concepts and issues associated with ABS labour statistics. It explores the data produced by both household and employer based collections, and highlights the range of products available to access labour-related data.

Courses are currently being scheduled for delivery in 2012 in most State / Territory capital cities. To register interest in a course, please refer to the ABS Training page or contact Deepa Wright on (02) 6252 7919 or email <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>

AUSTRALIAN LABOUR MARKET RESEARCH WORKSHOP

The Australian Labour Market Research Workshop (ALMR) was held in Canberra, ACT from 6-7 February 2012. This is an annual conference designed to share high quality research on labour economics and labour relations and to promote informed debate among economists about current labour market issues in Australia. The 2012 workshop was sponsored by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

For more information please visit the website.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods

[Contents >> Labour Statistics News >> Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#)

UPDATE TO LABOUR STATISTICS: CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods provides a comprehensive discussion and description of the concepts and definitions underpinning Australian labour statistics and the data sources and methods used in the collection and compilation of these statistics. It explains what the statistics measure, how the various measures relate to each other and how they are produced. It also discusses the factors influencing their accuracy and reliability.

The manual aims to help statistics users to improve their understanding of the range of Australian labour statistics, leading to better analyses and informed decision-making based on those statistics. The material is a valuable resource for economists, social analysts, educators, government and industry advisers, and others wanting to understand the methodology behind key labour statistics such as the Labour Force Survey and the Survey of Average Weekly Earnings.

The ABS released the Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods manual (cat. no. 6102.0) in August 2001. This paper publication was replaced in 2005 by an electronic version of the manual, which has the same title but a different catalogue number (6102.0.55.001). Maintaining an electronic version allows the ABS to regularly update the manual to reflect the current concepts, sources and methods used in compiling Australian labour statistics. A number of chapters have been recently updated.

For further information please contact Kirsty Leslie on (02) 6252 5436 or email <kirsty.leslie@abs.gov.au>.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Recent and Upcoming Releases

[Contents >> Recent and Upcoming Releases](#)



RECENT AND UPCOMING RELEASES

Release date/title of publication	Reference period	Catalogue number
March 2012		
Australian Economic Indicators	(a) April 2012	1350.0
Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product	(a) December qtr 2011	5206.0
Australian Social Trends	(a) March 2012	4102.0
Industrial Disputes, Australia	December qtr 2011	6321.0.55.001
Job Vacancies, Australia	February 2012	6354.0
Labour Force, Australia	February 2012	6202.0
Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery	February 2012	6291.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly	February 2012	6291.0.55.003
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia	September 2011	6220.0
Underemployed Workers, Australia	September 2011	6265.0
April 2012		
Australian Economic Indicators	(a) May 2012	1350.0
Australian Labour Market Statistics	(a) April 2012	6105.0
Forms of Employment, Australia	November 2011	6359.0
Labour Force, Australia	March 2012	6202.0

Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery	March 2012	6291.0.55.001
Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia	August 2011	6310.0
May 2012		
Australian Economic Indicators	(a) June 2012	1350.0
Average Weekly Earnings, Australia	February 2012	6302.0
Labour Costs, Australia	2010-2011	6348.0
Labour Force, Australia	April 2012	6202.0
Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery	April 2012	6291.0.55.001
Labour Price Index, Australia	March qtr 2012	6345.0
Labour Statistics in Brief	2012	6104.0
June 2012		
Australian Economic Indicators	(a) July 2012	1350.0
Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product	(a) March qtr 2012	5206.0
Business Indicators, Australia	March qtr 2011	5676.0
Australian Social Trends	June 2012	4102.0
Industrial Disputes, Australia	March qtr 2012	6321.0.55.001
Job Vacancies, Australia	May 2012	6354.0
Labour Force Characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians	2011	6287.0
Labour Force, Australia	May 2012	6202.0
Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery	May 2012	6291.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly	May 2012	6291.0.55.003
July 2012		
Australian Economic Indicators	(a) August 2012	1350.0
Australian Labour Market Statistics	(a) July 2012	6105.0
Labour Force, Australia	June 2012	6202.0
Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery	June 2012	6291.0.55.001

(a) Refers to the issue of the publication, not the reference period.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Articles and Analysis

[Contents >> Articles and Analysis](#)



ARTICLES AND ANALYSIS

[Employment Level Estimates versus Employment to Population Explained](#)

[Exploring Labour Force Data on Joblessness](#)

[Underemployment Patterns and the Global Financial Crisis \(GFC\)](#)

[Understanding the Australian Labour Force Using ABS Statistics](#)

This section contains the following subsection :
[Article archive](#)

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Article archive

[Contents >> Articles and Analysis >> Article archive](#)

AUSTRALIAN LABOUR MARKET STATISTICS ARTICLE ARCHIVE: APRIL 2003 - CURRENT

This section provides an archive of articles and analysis published in Australian Labour Market Statistics, promoting the effective use of labour market statistics. Articles are sorted by topic.

Articles on labour related topics are also regularly released in Australian Social Trends (cat. no. 4102.0).

Most Recent Articles
[Economic Growth](#)
[Employment Type](#)
[Industrial Disputes](#)
[Labour Force Survey](#)
[Non-Standard Employment](#)
[Retirement](#)
[Technical Reports](#)
[Unemployment](#)

Most Recent Articles

[Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics](#)
[Employment level estimates versus employment to population explained](#)
[Exploring Labour Force Data on joblessness](#)
[Underemployment patterns and the Global Financial Crisis \(GFC\)](#)

Ageing
[Employee Remuneration](#)
[Families](#)
[Job Starters](#)
[Migrants](#)
[Occupation](#)
[Trade Union](#)
[Underemployment](#)
[Working Arrangements](#)

Contractors
[Employment in ICT](#)
[Hours Worked](#)
[Labour Force Participation](#)
[Multiple Job Holders](#)
[Pay Setting](#)
[Transitions](#)
[Underutilisation](#)
[Youth](#)

[April 2012](#)
[April 2012](#)
[April 2012](#)
[April 2012](#)

[Ageing](#)

[< Back to top >](#)

Experimental estimates of the average age at withdrawal from the labour force	January 2005
Health, disability, age and labour force participation	April 2005
Mature age people and the labour force	October 2004
Contractors	
Independent Contractors	July 2009
	< Back to top >
Economic Growth	
Do job vacancies provide a leading indicator of employment growth?	April 2003
Population, participation and productivity: contributions to Australia's economic growth	July 2005
Population, participation and productivity: contributions to Australia's economic growth	January 2004
Employee Remuneration	
Changes to ABS measures of employee remuneration	January 2007
Comparison of ABS measures of employee remuneration	October 2005
Labour Price Index	January 2005
Employment in Information and Communication Technology	
Employment in information and communication technology	October 2006
Employment in information and communication technology	January 2005
Employment in information and communication technology	January 2004
Employment Type	
Changes in types of employment	October 2004
Employment type	July 2008
Employment type	July 2007
Employment type	July 2006
Employment type	October 2005
Fact Sheet: Employment Classifications	July 2011
	< Back to top >
Families	
Children living without an employed parent	July 2004
Jobless Families	January 2009
Maternity leave	July 2008
Parental leave	April 2004
Work and family balance	April 2009
Hours Worked	
Aggregate monthly hours worked	July 2010
Aggregate monthly hours worked: States and Territories	April 2011
Labour force characteristics during recent economic downturns	January 2011
People who worked few hours	April 2005
Trend in hours worked	October 2010
	< Back to top >
Industrial Disputes	
Industrial Disputes	July 2004
Job Starters	
First job starters	January 2008
Job starters	October 2005
Labour Force Participation	
Full-time and part-time participation in Australia: a cohort analysis	July 2005
Labour force characteristics during recent economic downturns	January 2011
Labour force participation in Australia	January 2005
Labour force participation: international comparison	January 2004
The relationship between GDP and employment	January 2006
	< Back to top >
Labour Force Survey	
Fifty Years of Labour Force: Now and Then	October 2011
Fact Sheet: Employment or jobs - what does the Labour Force Survey measure?	October 2011
Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics	February 2012
Employment level estimates versus employment to population explained	January 2012
Exploring Labour Force Data on joblessness	February 2012
Migrants	
Country of birth	October 2003
Labour outcomes of migrants	January 2006
Multiple Job Holders	
Multiple job holders	April 2004
	< Back to top >
Non-Standard Employment	

Job flexibility of casual employees	April 2009
Labour hire workers	January 2010
Measures of casual employment	October 2008
Occupation	
Spotlight on Occupation	April 2004 < Back to top >
Pay Setting	
Jurisdictional coverage of pay-setting arrangements	July 2009
Jurisdictional coverage of pay-setting arrangements	January 2008
Methods of setting pay	October 2009
Methods of setting pay	April 2007
Methods of setting pay	April 2005
Methods of setting pay	April 2004
Trends in employee methods of setting pay and jurisdictional coverage	July 2011
Retirement	
Retirement Intentions	January 2009 < Back to top >
Trade Union	
Trade union membership	July 2010
Trade union membership	April 2004
Transitions	
Changes in where people work over time	October 2006
Interstate commuters: An analysis of 2006 Census data	October 2008
Job search experience: methods and barriers in finding jobs	April 2004
Labour force transitions	July 2006 < Back to top >
Technical Reports	
Census and the Labour Force Survey	October 2007
Changes to coding processes for industry and occupation in the Labour Force Survey	July 2005
Changes to Labour Force Survey seasonal adjustment processes	January 2004
Extended labour force underutilisation rate	July 2009
Implementation of computer assisted interviewing in the Labour Force Survey	January 2005
Improvements to Labour Force estimates	April 2004
Labour Force Survey regions	July 2004
Labour Force Survey sample redesign	April 2003
Measures of weekly hours worked	July 2003
New Labour Force Survey sample selections: analysis of the effort on estimates	October 2003
Proposals from the review of ABS working arrangements statistics	October 2005
Standard error models for the Labour Force Survey	October 2005
Underenumeration in the Labour Force Survey: Findings of a Census data enhancement study	July 2008 < Back to top >
Underemployment	
Characteristics of underemployed workers	April 2003
Labour force characteristics during recent economic downturns	January 2011
Underemployed workers	July 2008
Underemployment patterns and the Global Financial Crisis (GFC)	April 2012
Underutilisation	
Annual measures of labour underutilisation	April 2005
Duration of underutilisation	April 2010
Experimental volume measures of labour underutilisation	July 2003
Historical labour underutilisation	July 2009
Labour force characteristics during recent economic downturns	January 2011
Labour underutilisation	April 2009
Labour underutilisation	July 2004
Labour underutilisation: more than unemployment	January 2011
Measures of labour underutilisation	January 2011
Quarterly labour force underutilisation rate	July 2008
Spotlight on underutilisation	January 2009
Underutilisation in the economic downturn	July 2009
Updated volume measures of labour underutilisation	April 2007
Updated volume measures of labour underutilisation	April 2006
Volume measures of labour underutilisation	October 2009
Volume measures of labour underutilisation	July 2008 < Back to top >
Unemployment	
Available labour of the unemployed	October 2007
Comparing unemployment and the claimant count	January 2009
Job search experience of unemployed people	July 2006
Long-term unemployment	January 2006
Retrenched unemployed people	April 2010

Working Arrangements

Employee share schemes
Shift workers
Working time arrangements

July 2005
October 2010
July 2010

Youth

Labour market transitions of teenagers

October 2003
< Back to top >

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Find Out More

[Contents >> Find Out More](#)



FIND OUT MORE

This section contains the following subsection :

[Contact Us](#)
[About the ABS labour statistics program](#)
[Introduction to Labour Statistics training course](#)
[Related publications](#)

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Contact Us

[Contents >> Find Out More >> Contact Us](#)

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information or queries regarding labour related statistics, contact the Labour Market Statistics Section on (02) 6252 7206 or email <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

Published information is available free of charge on the ABS website. Where data are not available on our website at the level of detail you require, the ABS can provide you with customised data to meet your specific requirements. To discuss options and for help finding and accessing ABS products and services please contact the National Information Referral Service on 1300 135 070. This service can provide a wide range of data on a fee for service basis and provide you with an obligation free quote.

All key labour statistical releases and publications can be found at the Labour Releases section of the Labour Topics @ a Glance page.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

About the ABS labour statistics program

[Contents >> Find Out More >> About the ABS labour statistics program](#)

ABOUT THE ABS LABOUR STATISTICS PROGRAM**LABOUR MARKET STATISTICS NATIONAL STATISTICS CENTRE**

The Labour Market Statistics National Statistics Centre provides statistical leadership in the development, production and dissemination of labour market statistics. The area undertakes a range of activities to:

- promote the effective use of labour statistics;
- influence the development of national and international frameworks, and assist with their implementation; and
- improve the relevance of labour market statistics produced by the ABS.

The Labour Market Statistics National Statistics Centre represents the interests of key users to ensure that their requirements are reflected in the program of ABS household and employer based collections. It promotes strategies for increasing the awareness of, and access to, both ABS and non-ABS data on labour market issues. The section seeks to improve users' understanding of labour market data to encourage the effective use of this data in discussions about labour market issues, for example through presenting the Introduction to Labour Statistics course and maintaining the Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001). For more information please contact Kirsty Leslie (Director) on (02) 6252 5436 or email <kirsty.leslie@abs.gov.au>.

LABOUR EMPLOYER SURVEYS BUSINESS STATISTICS CENTRE

The Labour Employer Surveys Business Statistics Centre is based in Perth and is responsible for a suite of national surveys which provide information about the structure and performance of the Australian labour market. Data are collected and produced in relation to average weekly earnings, job vacancies, industrial disputes, and employee earnings and hours. For more information about these surveys, please contact Mike Scott (Director) on (08) 9360 5276 or email <mike.scott@abs.gov.au>.

LABOUR FORCE AND SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CENTRE

The Labour Force and Supplementary Surveys Household Survey Centre is responsible for the management of the Monthly Population Survey (MPS) which provides extensive information covering Australian labour supply and demand, and workplace relations. The MPS includes the Labour Force Survey, Labour Supplementary Surveys (LSS) and the Multipurpose Household Survey (MPHS). The Labour Force Survey provides monthly estimates of the number of employed and unemployed people, the unemployment rate and the labour force participation rate. The LSS and MPHS collect information on a range of labour topics including forms of employment, job search experience, labour mobility, employee earnings, benefits and trade union memberships, underemployed workers, people not in the labour force, retirement, and work-related injuries. For more information about the work of this section, please contact Colin Rogers (Acting Director) on (02) 6252 7380 or email <colin.rogers@abs.gov.au>.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Introduction to Labour Statistics training course

[Contents >>](#) [Find Out More >>](#) [Introduction to Labour Statistics training course](#)

INTRODUCTION TO LABOUR STATISTICS TRAINING COURSE



Introduction to Labour Statistics is a one-day training course run in partnership between the National Statistical Training Institute and the Labour Market Statistics National Statistics Centre.

The training course suits people with or without a related academic background, providing an overview of the range of concepts and issues associated with ABS labour statistics. It also explores the data produced by both household and employer based collections, and highlights the range of data available.

The course content includes:

- Overview of ABS labour collections
- Labour supply and labour demand
- Measures of underutilised labour
- Labour market dynamics
- Describing employment conditions
- Information about population groups (including regions and Indigenous persons)
- Earnings and labour costs
- Industrial relations
- Guide to ABS data sources (including publications, spreadsheets, datacubes, standard errors, original/trend and seasonally adjusted series)

The course outcomes:

- Understanding of key labour concepts and issues
- Awareness of available ABS labour-related data and products.

Introduction to Labour Statistics training courses are generally held in each state capital each year, with courses currently scheduled in most state capitals for 2012.

For more details about this and other statistical training, or to register interest in a course, please refer to the ABS Training page or contact Deepa Wright on (02) 6252 7919 or email <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Related publications

[Contents >>](#) [Find Out More >>](#) [Related publications](#)



RELATED PUBLICATIONS

	cat. no.	Frequency
Labour Force Survey		
Labour Force, Australia	6202.0	Monthly
Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery	6291.0.55.001	Monthly
Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Quarterly	6291.0.55.003	Quarterly

Labour force supplementary surveys		
Childhood Education and Care, Australia	4402.0	Irregular
Child Employment, Australia	6211.0	Irregular
Education and Work, Australia	6227.0	Annual
Employee Earnings, Benefits & Trade Union Membership, Australia	6310.0	Annual
Forms of Employment, Australia	6359.0	Annual
Job Search Experience, Australia	6222.0	Annual
Labour Force Experience, Australia	6206.0	Biennial
Labour Force Status & Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia	6250.0	Triennial
Labour Mobility, Australia	6209.0	Biennial
Locations of Work, Australia	6275.0	Irregular
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia	6220.0	Annual
Underemployed Workers, Australia	6265.0	Annual
Working Time Arrangements, Australia	6342.0	Triennial
Multi purpose household surveys		
Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia	6239.0	Biennial
Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia(a)	6238.0	Biennial
Work-Related Injuries, Australia	6324.0	Four-yearly
Other labour surveys		
Average Weekly Earnings, Australia	6302.0	Quarterly
Employment and Earnings, Public Sector, Australia(b)	6248.0.55.002	Annual
Employee Earnings & Hours, Australia	6306.0	Biennial
Employer Training Expenditure & Practices, Australia	6362.0	Irregular
Employment Arrangements, Retirement & Superannuation, Australia	6361.0	Irregular
Industrial Disputes, Australia	6321.0.55.001	Quarterly
Job Vacancies, Australia	6354.0	Quarterly
Labour Costs, Australia	6348.0.55.001	Irregular
Labour Force Characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Estimates from the Labour Force Survey	6287.0	Annual
Labour Force, Australia: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families	6224.0.55.001	Irregular
Labour Price Index, Australia	6345.0	Quarterly
Wage & Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia(b)	6248.0.55.001	Discontinued
Information papers and other reference material		
Expansion of Hours Worked Estimates from the Labour Force Survey	6290.0.55.001	Irregular
Australian National Accounts: Concepts, Sources & Methods	5216.0	Irregular
Changes to ABS Measures of Employee Remuneration	6313.0	Irregular
Changes to Labour Force Survey Products	6297.0	Irregular
Estimating Average Annual Hours Worked	1352.0.55.077	Irregular
Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics	6292.0	Irregular
Improvements to Family Estimates from the Labour Force Survey	6224.0.55.002	Irregular
Labour Force Survey Sample Design	6269.0	Irregular
Labour Force Survey Standard Errors	6298.0	Irregular
Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube	6298.0.55.001	Irregular
Labour Force Survey Standard Products and Data Item Guide	6103.0	Irregular
Labour Price Index: Concepts, Sources & Methods	6351.0.55.001	Irregular
Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources & Methods	6102.0.55.001	Irregular
Labour Statistics in Brief, Australia	6104.0	Annual
Labour Statistics News (c)	6106.0	Discontinued
Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey	6232.0	Irregular
Year Book, Australia	1301.0	Biennial
Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs)		
Microdata: Childhood Education and Care, Expanded CURF, Australia	4402.0.55.001	Irregular
Childhood Education and Care, Australia, Expanded CURF, Technical Manual	4402.0.55.002	Irregular
Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia, CURF, Technical Manual	6306.0.55.002	Irregular
Microdata: Forms of Employment, Basic, CURF, Australia	6359.0.30.001	Irregular
Microdata: Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia	6202.0.30.001	Biennial
Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia: Basic CURF, Technical Paper	6202.0.30.002	Biennial
Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Australia: Basic and Expanded CURF	6202.0.30.004	Biennial
Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Australia: Basic and Expanded CURF, Technical Manual	6202.0.30.005	Biennial
Microdata: Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, Expanded CURF, Australia	6361.0.55.001	Irregular
Microdata: Employee Earnings and Hours, CURF, Australia	6306.0.55.001	Irregular
Technical manual: Survey of Education and Training, Australia, Basic and Expanded CURFs, Australia	6278.0.55.001	Irregular
Microdata: Survey of Education and Training, Australia, Basic CURF, Australia	6278.0.55.002	Irregular
Survey of Education and Training, Australia, Expanded CURF, Technical Manual	6278.0.55.003	Irregular
Microdata: Survey of Education and Training, Australia, Expanded CURF, Australia	6278.0.55.004	Irregular
Microdata: Survey of Education and Work, Basic CURF, Australia, May 2009	6227.0.30.001	Biennial
Survey of Income and Housing - CURF, Technical Manual	6541.0	Irregular
Microdata: Income and Housing, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia, 2007-08	6541.0.30.001	Irregular
Other publications		
Australian Economic Indicators	1350.0	Monthly
Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure & Product	5206.0	Quarterly
Australian Social Trends	4102.0	Quarterly
Australian System of National Accounts	5204.0	Annual
Business Indicators, Australia	5676.0	Quarterly
Census of Population & Housing: Selected Education & Labour Force Characteristics, Australia	2017.0	Irregular
Education & Training Indicators, Australia	4230.0	Irregular
General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia	4159.0	Irregular
Government Benefits, Taxes & Household Income, Australia	6537.0	Irregular
Household Income & Income Distribution, Australia	6523.0	Biennial
Measures of Australia's Progress	1370.0	Irregular
Regional Wage & Salary Earner Statistics, Australia	5673.0.55.001	Irregular
Superannuation: Coverage & Financial Characteristics, Australia	6360.0	Irregular
Voluntary Work, Australia	4441.0	Irregular

- Previously conducted as a labour force supplementary survey in 2000, data now collected as part of the Multi Purpose Household Survey.
- The quarterly survey of Employment and Earnings - Public Sector has been replaced with an annual survey, commencing with the 2007-08 reference year. As a result, the June quarter 2007 was the final issue of Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia (cat. no. 6248.0.55.001). Data from the annual survey are released in Employment and Earnings, Public Sector, Australia (cat. no. 6248.0.55.002).
- Content now contained within Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0).
-

Explanatory Notes

Explanatory Notes



EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 Australian Labour Market Statistics provides information about the latest developments in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) labour statistics program, highlighting new and upcoming releases of ABS labour data or changes to these series. It presents a broad level summary of key labour market measures, contains analyses of labour market issues, and provides resources on how to understand and interpret labour market statistics.

2 The electronic product takes advantage of website capabilities.

3 In addition to data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), this publication contains key labour market statistics from a range of other ABS labour surveys including Average Weekly Earnings, the Labour Price Index, Job Vacancies, and Industrial Disputes.

4 This publication includes a range of feature articles which are intended to assist users in understanding and interpreting the data and promote the range of data available from the ABS labour statistics program. From time to time a single issue of this publication may not contain any new articles.

LABOUR STATISTICS CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

5 The concepts and definitions underpinning ABS labour statistics align closely with the standards and guidelines set out in Resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Descriptions of the underlying concepts of Australia's labour market statistics, and the sources and methods used in compiling the estimates, are presented in Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001), which is available on the ABS website at <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> [Topics @ a Glance - People - Labour - Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods].

6 For an explanation of terms used in this publication, refer to the Glossary.

LABOUR TOPICS @ A GLANCE

7 The Labour Topics @ a Glance page is a portal to all labour statistics and related information residing on the ABS website. The page contains links to Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001); information about labour related surveys; and a help page for respondents to ABS labour related surveys. The Labour Topics @ a Glance page can be accessed at <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> [Topics @ a Glance - People - Labour].

ORIGINAL AND TREND ESTIMATES

8 Series in this publication include **original** and **trend** series. Special care should be taken in interpreting data for the most recent months and quarters, as some of the original and all of the trend series are subject to revision.

9 It is not uncommon for movements in original time series data and those provided from trend series to differ. Movements in a time series of original data may reflect several factors, including:

- longer-term changes in the item being measured (i.e. trend movements);
- short-term irregular changes;
- regular seasonal influences;
- normal 'trading', 'working' or 'pay' day patterns; and
- systematic holiday effects.

10 Trend estimates help the user to identify the underlying magnitude and direction of a time series. Seasonal adjustment removes the effect of the last three listed influences from the data, leaving only trend and short-term irregular movements. Trend estimates are then obtained by removing the effects of the short-term irregularities, which in some series can be a major contributor to movements in the original data.

11 Trend estimates are produced by using a statistical procedure based on Henderson moving averages. At each time point in a series, a trend estimate is calculated using a centred x-term Henderson moving average of the seasonally adjusted series. The moving averages are centred on the point in time at which the trend is being estimated. The number of terms used to calculate the trend varies across surveys. Generally, ABS monthly surveys use a 13-term moving average and quarterly surveys use a 7-term moving average.

12 Estimates for the most recent time points cannot be calculated using the centred average method as there are insufficient data to do so. Instead, alternative approaches that approximate the smoothing properties of the Henderson moving average are used. This can lead to revision in the trend estimates for the most recent time periods until sufficient data are available to calculate the trend using the centred Henderson moving average. Revisions of trend estimates will also occur with revisions to the original data and re-estimation of seasonal adjustment factors.

13 Seasonal factors are reviewed at least annually for ABS labour series, to take account of additional original data. The results of the latest reviews were used to compile the trend estimates given in this publication. For further information about the most recent reviews of seasonal factors for the labour surveys, see the following publications:

- for labour force, see Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0);
- for labour price index, see Labour Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6345.0); and
- for average weekly earnings, see Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat. no. 6302.0).

14 The general methods used in the ABS for estimating trends are described in Information Paper: A Guide to Interpreting Time Series - Monitoring Trends (cat. no. 1349.0).

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

15 Estimates in this publication are subject to two types of error:

- sampling error - errors that occur because the data were obtained from a sample rather than the entire population; and
- non-sampling error - errors that occur at any stage of a survey and can also occur in a census, e.g. incorrect responses to questions, processing errors, frame deficiencies.

16 For more information on these sources of error, and on measures of these types of errors, including standard errors, refer to the main publications associated with each of the data series presented in this publication (see the relevant sections later in these Explanatory Notes). More information on standard errors applying to LFS estimates is contained in Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, 2005 (cat. no. 6298.0). To assist users, a spreadsheet incorporating the revised standard error models using composite estimation is available from Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube, Oct 2009 (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

ROUNDING

17 Estimates have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY DATA

Description of the survey

18 The Labour Force Survey (LFS) provides extensive and timely information on the labour market activity of the usually resident civilian population of Australia aged 15 and over. The LFS is a component of the Monthly Population Survey (MPS), which includes the LFS and supplementary surveys.

Monthly Population Survey

19 The Monthly Population Survey (MPS) is a population survey based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings and list samples of discrete Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and non-private dwellings (hospitals, hotels, motels, etc.), and covers about 0.45% of the population of Australia. The information is obtained from occupants of selected dwellings by interviewers, with the first interview conducted face-to-face and subsequent interviews over the telephone. Once selected, households are included for eight consecutive months before being replaced.

Labour Force Survey

20 The Labour Force Survey (LFS) has been conducted since 1960, first as a quarterly collection and then monthly from February 1978. The content of the survey has remained broadly the same since its introduction, but is regularly updated to ensure that it is the most appropriate for the provision of accurate labour force statistics.

21 The LFS is designed primarily to provide estimates of key labour force statistics for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory. Further details about concepts and methods are presented in Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001),

Supplementary surveys

22 A supplementary topic was included with the Labour Force Survey for the first time in November 1961, and this concept has been gradually extended so that now, a majority of the months in each year include supplementary questions on one or more topics. Results from each supplementary survey topic are released separately.

23 The survey methodology does not differ greatly among the supplementary surveys, and in many aspects is the same as the LFS methodology. A list of topics covered in recent years is available from Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0) > Contents> Find Out More > Related Publications. Further details about concepts and methods are presented in Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

Multi Purpose Household Survey

24 The Multi Purpose Household Survey (MPHS) was introduced in 2004-05. This survey vehicle is designed to provide statistics annually for a number of small, self contained topics, including a number of labour related topics. Data for MPHS topics are collected each month over a financial year. A list of topics covered in recent years is available from Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0) > Contents> Find Out More > Related Publications. Further details about concepts and methods are presented in Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

Reference period

25 Interviews are generally conducted during the two weeks beginning on the Monday between the 6th and 12th of each month, with questions relating to the week prior to the interview (the reference week).

Notes on data

26 From time to time, changes to survey methodology affect the time series produced. Some examples of changes to this survey are: new questions added to the LFS questionnaire in April 2001; and the introduction of telephone interviewing in 1996-97.

27 In February 2004 the definition of unemployed persons was changed to include all persons who were waiting to start work and were available to start in the reference week, with consequent revisions to data from April 2001 to January 2004. For further details, Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics, 2003 (cat. no. 6292.0).

28 In May 2007, an improved method of estimation, known as composite estimation, was introduced into the Labour Force Survey. In introducing this change the ABS revised unit record data from April 2001 to April 2007 based on the new estimation method. While estimates for periods prior to April 2001 are unrevised and were compiled using a different estimation method, no trend break was identified in the employed persons series. Also, no change was identified in the trend breaks in the unemployed persons and unemployment rate series which arose with the introduction of a redesigned survey form in April 2001. For further details, see Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics, 2007 (cat. no. 6292.0).

Population benchmarks

29 Labour Force Survey estimates are calculated in such a way as to add up to independent estimates of the civilian population aged 15 years and over (population benchmarks). These population benchmarks are projections of the most recently released quarterly Estimated Resident Population (ERP) data. For information on the methodology used to produce the ERP see Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0).

30 The ERP series are revised twice-yearly in the March and September quarter issues of Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0) to incorporate more up to date information available for the population components. For further details, see the article '**Labour Force Survey Population Benchmarks**' in Labour Force, Australia, September 2010 (cat. no. 6202.0).

Estimation method

31 The estimation method used in the Labour Force Survey is Composite Estimation, which was introduced in May 2007. Composite Estimation combines data collected in the previous six months with current month's data to produce the current month's estimates, thereby exploiting the high correlation between overlapping samples across months in the Labour Force Survey. The Composite Estimator combines the previous and current months' data by applying different factors according to length of time in the survey. After these factors are applied, the seven months of data are weighted to align with current month population benchmarks. For details see Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics, 2007 (cat. no. 6292.0).

Families series

32 Family relationship is not determined for all households and persons in scope of the LFS. This is due to a number of factors related to the scope and coverage of the LFS, as well as difficulties in determining family structure and characteristics. The survey questions used to determine family relationships are restricted to persons enumerated as usual residents of private dwellings. That is, the following persons are excluded:

- all persons enumerated in non-private dwellings (including hotels, motels, hospitals and other institutions); and
- members of households where any of the usual residents aged 15 years and over are:
 - Non-Australian diplomats, non-Australian diplomatic staff or non-Australian members of their household;
 - Short term overseas visitors, whose usual residence is outside of Australia and who are staying in Australia for less than 12 months; or
 - Members of non-Australian defence forces stationed in Australia or their dependants.

33 From October 2008, the method of producing family estimates from the LFS included: an expanded scope to include households containing permanent members of the Australian defence forces; a wider range of families in the LFS sample contributing to the family estimates; and improvement to the weighting method by utilising independent population benchmarks (of persons and households), ensuring the estimates more closely reflected the Australian population. See Improvements to Family Estimates from the Labour Force Survey (cat. no. 6224.0.55.002).

Further information and data on the LFS

34 LFS estimates are published monthly in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0). A series of time series spreadsheets are released at the same time as this publication under cat. no. 6202.0.55.001. More detailed estimates are released, in electronic format, one week later, under cat. no. 6291.0.55.001 for monthly data, or cat. no. 6291.0.55.003 for quarterly data. All electronic data can be accessed via the ABS website at <https://www.abs.gov.au>. For details on the data available in the Labour Force standard products, see Labour Force Survey Standard Products and Data Item Guide (cat. no. 6103.0). Additional data are available on request.

35 For further information about the range of LFS products and services, and the concepts and methodology used in the LFS, refer to Information Paper: Changes to Labour Force Survey Products (cat. no. 6297.0), Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001), or contact Labour Market Statistics on Canberra (02) 6252 7206.

WAGE PRICE INDEX DATA

Description of the survey

36 The Labour Price Index (LPI) measures change in the price of labour in the Australian labour market, unaffected by changes in the quality or quantity of work performed, i.e. it is unaffected by changes in the composition of the labour force, hours worked, or changes in characteristics of employees (e.g. work performance). In the LPI, index numbers are compiled for a range of wage and non-wage costs. Information about the wage price indexes has been released for each quarter since September 1997.

Reference period

37 The reference period for the survey is the last pay period ending on or before the third Friday of the mid-month of the quarter.

Further information

38 For further information about the range of products and services relating to the Wage Price Index, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to Labour Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6345.0), Labour Price Index, Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6351.0.55.001), the associated time series spreadsheets available from the ABS website, or contact the Manager, Labour Price Index on Perth (08) 9360 5151.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS DATA

Description of the survey

39 The Survey of Average Weekly Earnings has been conducted quarterly since August 1981. Approximately 5,500 businesses contribute to the survey each quarter. The purpose of the survey is to measure average gross weekly earnings of employee jobs in Australia. The frequency of the average weekly earnings series will change from quarterly to biannual in 2012. The May 2012 publication will be the last quarterly issue (released in August 2012), with the November 2012 publication the first produced on a biannual basis (released in February 2013). From 2013 onwards, AWE data will be produced twice a year relating to the May and November quarters.

40 Average weekly earnings statistics represent average gross (before tax) earnings of employees and do not relate to average award rates nor to the earnings of the 'average person'. Estimates of average weekly earnings are derived by dividing estimates of weekly total earnings by estimates of number of employees. Changes in the averages may be affected not only by changes in the level of earnings of employees but also by changes in the overall composition of the wage and salary earner segment of the labour force.

Reference period

41 The reference period for the survey is the last pay period ending on or before the third Friday of the middle month of the quarter. For non-weekly payrolls, businesses are asked to provide one week's portion.

Further information

42 For further information about average weekly earnings statistics and the concepts and methodology used, refer to Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat. no. 6302.0), Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001), or contact the Manager, Survey of Average Weekly Earnings on Perth (08) 9360 5304.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES DATA

Description of the survey

43 The ABS has been collecting information about industrial disputes since 1913. The Industrial Disputes collection produces estimates of the number of industrial disputes (where ten or more working days are lost), employees involved, and working days lost.

44 The scope of the Industrial Disputes collection is restricted to employing businesses at which an industrial dispute has occurred. For this collection, industrial disputes are defined as work stoppages of ten working days or more. Ten working days are equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day, regardless of the length of the stoppage, e.g. 3,000 workers on strike for two hours would be counted as 750 working days lost (assuming they work an eight-hour day).

45 Effects on other establishments not directly involved in the dispute, such as stand-downs because of lack of materials, disruption of transport services, power cuts, etc. are not included in the scope of this collection.

Reference period

46 The collection reference period is the calendar quarter.

Further information

47 For further information about industrial disputes statistics, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to the electronic publication Industrial Disputes, Australia (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001), Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001), or contact the Manager, Industrial Disputes on Perth (08) 9360 5338.

JOB VACANCIES DATA

Description of the survey

48 The current Job Vacancies Survey has been conducted since November 1983, with the exception of between August 2008 and August 2009 when the survey was temporarily suspended. It is a quarterly sample survey of approximately 5,000 employers. The survey produces estimates of the number of job vacancies in Australia.

Reference date

49 The reference date for the survey is the third Friday of the middle month of the quarter.

Further information

50 For further information about the range of products and services relating to ABS job vacancies statistics, and the concepts and

methodology used, refer to Job Vacancies, Australia (cat. no. 6354.0), Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001), the associated time series spreadsheets available from the ABS website, or contact the Manager, Job Vacancies Survey on Perth (08) 9360 5249.

Glossary

GLOSSARY

Actual hours worked

Actual hours worked is the amount of time a person actually spent at work during a specified reference period. The time includes all paid and unpaid overtime, but excludes hours for which paid but not worked (such as paid annual leave or public holidays), meal breaks and time spent on travel to and from work. Actual hours worked (for a specific reference period) may differ from usual hours worked due to illness, vacation, strike, overtime work, a change of job or similar reasons.

Adult employees

Employees who are 21 years of age or over, and employees under 21 years old who are paid at the full adult rate for their occupation.

Aggregate monthly hours worked

Aggregate monthly hours worked measures the total number of actual hours worked by employed persons in a calendar month. It differs from the actual hours worked estimates (and the usual hours worked estimates) since these refer only to the hours worked in the reference week. Actual and usual hours worked cannot be aggregated across time to produce either quarterly or annual estimates as they relate to only a single week in the month. In contrast, aggregate monthly hours worked estimates are a true monthly measure, and may be aggregated across time to produce both quarterly and annual estimates.

Average actual weekly hours worked

The average total number of hours a group of employed persons has actually worked during the reference week, not necessarily hours for which paid. This is calculated as the aggregate actual weekly hours worked by a group of employed persons divided by the number of persons in the group.

Average weekly earnings

Average weekly earnings represent average gross (before tax) earnings of employees and do not relate to average award rates nor to the earnings of the 'average person'. Estimates of average weekly earnings are derived by dividing estimates of weekly total earnings by estimates of number of employees.

Award only

Awards are legally enforceable determinations made by federal or state industrial tribunals that set the terms of employment (pay and/or conditions), usually in a particular industry or occupation. Awards may be the sole mechanism used to set the pay and/or conditions for an employee or group of employees, or alternatively may be used in conjunction with an individual or collective agreement.

Employees are classified to the Award or pay scale only category if they are paid at the rate of pay specified in the Award and are not paid more than that rate of pay.

Children living without an employed parent

For this measure, a child is defined as a person who is under 15 years of age who is a natural, adopted, step, foster or nominal son or daughter of a couple or lone parent, usually resident in the same household. The number of children living without an employed parent is determined through the labour force status of parent(s) in the parent-child relationship who are usually resident in the household. This measure includes couple families where both parents are either unemployed or not in the labour force and lone parent families where the sole parent is unemployed or not in the labour force as defined.

Civilian population aged 15 years and over

All usual residents of Australia aged 15 years and over except members of the permanent defence forces, certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments customarily excluded from census and estimated population counts, overseas residents in Australia, and members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

Collective agreement

An agreement between an employer (or group of employers) and a group of employees (or one or more unions or employee associations representing the employees). A collective agreement sets the terms of employment (pay and/or conditions) for a group of employees, and is usually registered with a federal or state industrial tribunal or authority.

Employees are classified to the Collective agreement category if they had the main part of their pay set by a registered or unregistered collective agreement or enterprise award.

Couple family

A couple family is identified by the existence of a couple relationship. A couple relationship is defined as two people usually residing in the same household who share a social, economic and emotional bond usually associated with marriage and who consider their relationship to be a marriage or marriage-like union. This relationship is identified by the presence of a registered marriage or de facto marriage. A couple family can be with or without children, and may or may not include other related individuals. A couple family with children present can be expanded to elaborate on the characteristics of those children, such as their number, age and dependency status.

Dependent child

A dependent child is a person who is either a child under 15 years of age, or a dependent student (see **Dependent student** below). To be regarded as a child the person can have no identified partner or child of his/her own usually resident in the household.

Dependent student

A dependent student is a natural, adopted, step, or foster child who is 15-24 years of age and who attends a secondary or tertiary educational institution as a full-time student and for whom there is no identified partner or child of his/her own usually resident in the same household.

Discouraged jobseekers

Discouraged jobseekers are people with marginal attachment to the labour force who wanted to work and were available to start work within the next four weeks but whose main reason for not actively looking for work was that they believed they would not find a job for any of the following reasons:

- considered to be too young by employers;
- considered to be too old by employers;
- believed ill health or disability discourages employers;
- lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience;
- difficulties because of language or ethnic background;
- no jobs in their locality or line of work;
- no jobs in suitable hours; or
- no jobs at all.

Disputes which ended during the reference period

Disputes which ended during the period encompasses those disputes which:

- started in a previous period and ended in the reference period; and
- began and ended in the reference period

Duration of unemployment

Duration of unemployment is the period of time from when an unemployed person began looking for work, until the end of the reference week; or the period of time since an unemployed person last worked in any job for two weeks or more, until the end of the reference week; whichever was the shorter period.

Employed

Employed persons include all people aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers);
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers);
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
 - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week;
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week;
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement;
 - on strike or locked out;
 - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers, who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Employed full-time

People employed full-time are those employed people who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working fewer than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

Employed part-time

Persons employed part-time are those employed persons who usually worked fewer than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

Employed persons who work part-time (percentage)

The percentage of employed people who work part time is calculated as the number of people who are employed part-time, expressed as a percentage of all employed people.

Employees

As relating to the Average weekly earnings key measure: Employees refer to all wage and salary earners who received pay for any part of the reference period.

As relating to the Industrial disputes key measures: Employees refers to wage and salary earners only. Excluded are persons who are self employed and employers.

As relating to all other references to employees: Persons who worked for a private or public employer and received pay for the reference period in the form of wages or salaries, a commission while also receiving a retainer, tips, piece rates or payment in kind. Persons who operated their own incorporated business with or without hiring employees were also included as employees.

Employment to population ratio

The employment to population ratio is calculated as the number of employed persons, expressed as a percentage of the civilian population.

Extended labour force underutilisation rate

The extended labour force underutilisation rate is calculated as the unemployed, plus the underemployed, plus two groups who are marginally attached to the labour force:

- (i) persons actively looking for work, not available to start work in the reference week, but available to start work within four weeks; and
- (ii) discouraged jobseekers

as a percentage of the labour force augmented by (i) and (ii).

Family

A family consists of two or more people, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering, and who are usually resident in the same household. The basis of a family is formed by identifying the presence of a couple relationship, lone parent-child relationship or other blood relationship. Some households will, therefore, contain more than one family.

Full-time employed

People employed full-time are those employed people who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working fewer than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

Full-time employees

Employees who normally work the agreed or award hours for a full-time employee in their occupation. If agreed or award hours do not apply, employees are regarded as full-time if they usually work 35 hours or more per week.

Fully engaged in education or work

People fully engaged in education or work, were in full-time work or in full-time education, or in part-time work combined with part-time education in the survey reference week.

Hours paid for

Hours paid for is the amount of time for which employees were paid in their main job, not necessarily the number of hours actually worked during the reference week (e.g. an employee on paid leave for the week was asked to report the number of hours for which they were paid).

Household

Households consist of one or more people, at least one of whom is at least 15 years of age, usually resident in the same private dwelling.

Index number series

An index number series measures the change over time from a reference base period value, which is normally presented as an index value of 100.0.

Individual arrangement

An arrangement between an employer and an individual employee on the terms of employment (pay and/or conditions) for the employee. Common types of individual arrangements are individual contracts, letters of offer and common law contracts. An individual contract (or letter of offer) may specify all terms of employment, or alternatively may reference an award for some conditions and/or in the setting of pay (e.g. over award payments). Individual contracts may also be registered with a federal or state industrial tribunal or authority (e.g. as an Australian Workplace Agreement). However, the **Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Act 2008** ceased the registration of new individual agreements from 28 March 2008.

Employees are classified to the Individual arrangement category if they have the main part of their pay set by an individual contract, registered individual agreement (e.g. Australian Workplace Agreement), common law contract, or if they receive over award payments by individual agreement.

Industrial dispute

An industrial dispute is defined as a state of disagreement over an issue or group of issues between an employer and its employees, which results in employees ceasing work. Industrial disputes comprise strikes, which are a withdrawal from work by a group of employees; and lockouts, which are a refusal by an employer or group of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work.

Industry

An industry is a group of businesses or organisations that undertake similar economic activities to produce goods and/or services. In this publication, industry refers to ANZSIC Division as classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 (cat. no. 1292.0).

Job vacancy

A job vacancy is a job available for immediate filling on the survey reference date and for which recruitment action had been taken. Recruitment action includes efforts to fill vacancies by advertising, by factory notices, by notifying public or private employment agencies or trade unions and by contacting, interviewing or selecting applicants already registered with the enterprise or organisation. Estimates of job vacancies exclude:

- jobs not available for immediate filling on the survey reference date;
- jobs for which no recruitment action has been taken;
- jobs which became vacant on the survey date and were filled on the same day;

- jobs of less than one day's duration;
- jobs only available to be filled by internal applicants within an organisation;
- jobs to be filled by employees returning from paid or unpaid leave or after industrial disputes;
- vacancies for work to be carried out by contractors; and
- jobs for which a person has been appointed but has not yet commenced duty.

Jurisdictional coverage

The workplace relations jurisdiction (i.e federal or state) under which that the employee is deemed to be for pay-setting purposes.

Labour force

For any group, the labour force consists of people who were employed or unemployed, as defined.

Labour force participation rate

The labour force participation rate for any group within the population is the labour force component of that group, expressed as a percentage of the population in that group.

Labour force status

Labour force status is a classification of the civilian population aged 15 years and over into the categories employed and unemployed (which together comprise the labour force) and not in the labour force, as defined.

Labour force underutilisation rate

The labour force underutilisation rate is the sum of the number of persons unemployed and the number of persons underemployed, expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Labour underutilisation

Labour underutilisation is a measure of excess labour capacity in an economy. It can be measured using either population or hours based estimates. See **Labour force underutilisation rate**; **Extended labour force underutilisation rate**; and **Volume labour force underutilisation rate**.

Left a job

People who left a job are unemployed people who have worked for two weeks or more in the past two years and left that job voluntarily, for example, because of:

- unsatisfactory work arrangements/pay/hours;
- the job was a holiday job or they left the job to return to studies; or
- their last job was running their own business and they closed down or sold that business for reasons other than financial difficulties.

Long-term unemployed

The long-term unemployed are people who have been unemployed for 52 weeks or more. See **Duration of unemployment**.

Long-term unemployed as a proportion of total unemployment

For any group, the long term unemployed as a proportion of total unemployment is the number of long-term unemployed persons, expressed as a percentage of the unemployed population.

Long-term unemployment rate

The long term unemployment rate for any group is the number of long-term unemployed persons, expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Lost a job

People who lost a job are unemployed people who have worked for two weeks or more in the past two years and left that job involuntarily, that is, were:

- laid off or retrenched from that job;
- left that job because of their own ill-health or injury;
- the job was seasonal or temporary; or
- their last job was running their own business and the business closed down because of financial difficulties.

Managerial employees

Employees who are in charge of a significant number of employees and/or have strategic responsibilities in the conduct or operations of the organisation, and usually do not have an entitlement to paid overtime. Includes professionally qualified staff who primarily perform managerial tasks in conjunction with utilising their professional skills. Owner managers of incorporated enterprises are regarded as managerial employees.

Marginal attachment to the labour force

People with marginal attachment to the labour force were not in the labour force in the reference week, wanted to work and:

- were actively looking for work but did not meet the availability criteria to be classified as unemployed; or

- were not actively looking for work but were available to start work within four weeks.

The criteria for determining those in the labour force are based on activity (i.e. working or looking for work) and availability to start work during the reference week. The criteria associated with marginal attachment to the labour force, in particular the concepts of wanting to work and reasons for not actively looking for work, are more subjective. Hence, the measurement against these criteria is affected by the respondent's own interpretation of the concepts used. An individual respondent's interpretation may be affected by their work aspirations, as well as family, economic and other commitments.

Median earnings

Median earnings is the amount of earnings which divides employees into two groups containing equal numbers of employees, one half with earnings below the median and the other half with earnings above the median.

Method of setting pay

How the main part of an employee's pay is set. Employees are classified to one of the following categories: Award only; Collective agreement; or Individual arrangement. Employees classified to the Collective agreement or Individual arrangement categories are further classified according to whether the agreement is registered with a federal or state industrial tribunal or authority.

Non-managerial employees

Employees who are not managerial employees (as defined above), including non-managerial professionals and some employees with supervisory responsibilities.

Not in the labour force

People not in the labour force are those who were not in the categories 'employed' or 'unemployed' as defined.

Occupation

An occupation is a collection of jobs that are sufficiently similar in their title and tasks, skill level and skill specialisation which are grouped together for the purposes of classification. In this publication occupation refers to Major Group as defined by ANZSCO - Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, Revision 1, 2009 (cat. no. 1220.0).

One-parent family

One-parent families consist of a lone parent with at least one child (regardless of age) who is also usually resident in the household and who has no identified partner or child of his/her own. The family may also include any number of other related individuals.

Ordinary time cash earnings

Payment for award, standard or agreed hours of work, including allowances, penalty payments, payments by measured result and regular bonuses and commissions. Amounts salary sacrificed are also included. Excluded are non-cash components of salary packages, overtime payments, retrospective pay, pay in advance, leave loadings, severance pay, and termination and redundancy payments.

Original series

Original series estimates are produced directly from the survey data and have not been subject to seasonal adjustment or trend estimation.

Other family

Other family is defined as a group of related individuals residing in the same household, who cannot be categorised as belonging to a couple or one parent family.

Owner managers of incorporated enterprises

Persons who work in their own incorporated enterprise - that is, a business entity which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (for example, a limited liability company).

Owner managers of incorporated enterprises are presented separately in the 'method of setting pay' measure.

Participation rate

For any group, the participation rate is the labour force, expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over.

Part-time employed

Persons employed part-time are those employed persons who usually worked fewer than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

Part-time employed who are underemployed

For any group, part-time employed who are underemployed is the number of people who are both part-time employed and underemployed workers, expressed as a percentage of all part-time employed.

Part-time work

See **Part-time employed**.

Seasonally adjusted series

A seasonally adjusted series is a time series of estimates with the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation removed.

Sector

Public sector comprises local government authorities and all government departments and agencies created by, or reporting to, the Commonwealth, or state/territory parliaments. Private sector comprises all organisations not classified as public sector.

Total hourly rates of pay index excluding bonuses

The total hourly rates of pay index excluding bonuses measures the quarterly change in combined ordinary income and overtime hourly rates of pay.

Trade union

A trade union is an organisation consisting predominantly of employees, the principal activities of which include the negotiation of rates of pay and conditions of employment for its members.

Trade union member

Trade union members are employees who are members of a trade union, not necessarily in connection with their main job.

Trend series

A trend series is a smoothed seasonally adjusted time series of estimates.

Underemployed workers

Underemployed workers are employed persons aged 15 years and over who want, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have. They comprise:

- persons employed part-time who want to work more hours and are available to start work with more hours, either in the reference week or in the four weeks subsequent to the survey; or
- persons employed full-time who worked part-time hours in the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available). It is assumed that these people wanted to work full-time in the reference week and would have been available to do so.

Underemployment rate

The underemployment rate is the number of underemployed workers, expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Unemployed

Unemployed persons include all people aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Unemployed looking for first full-time job

Unemployed looking for first full-time job consists of unemployed persons looking for full-time work who had never worked full-time for two weeks or more.

Unemployed looking for first job

Unemployed looking for first job consists of unemployed persons who had never worked for two weeks or more.

Unemployed looking for full-time work

Unemployed looking for full-time work consists of unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for full-time work; or
- were waiting to start a new full-time job.

Unemployed looking for part-time work

Unemployed looking for part-time work consists of unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for part-time work only; or
- were waiting to start a new part-time job.

Unemployment rate

The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed persons, expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Unemployment to population ratio

The unemployment to population ratio is the number of unemployed people, expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over.

Usual hours worked

Usual hours of work refer to a typical period rather than to a specified reference period. The concept of usual hours applies both to persons at work and to persons temporarily absent from work, and is defined as the hours worked during a typical week or day. Actual hours worked (for a specific reference period) may differ from usual hours worked due to illness, vacation, strike, overtime work, a change of job, or similar reasons.

Volume labour force underutilisation rate

The volume labour force underutilisation rate is the total volume of underutilised labour in the labour force (hours sought by unemployed people, plus additional hours preferred by underemployed people), expressed as a percentage of the volume of potential labour in the labour force (see definition below).

Volume measure of labour underutilisation

The volume measure of labour underutilisation is an hours based or volume measure of labour underutilisation which quantifies the hours of available labour that are unutilised. It is calculated as the hours of labour sought by unemployed persons plus the hours of labour preferred by underemployed workers.

Volume of potential labour in the labour force

The volume of potential labour in the labour force is equal to the hours of labour sought by unemployed persons, plus the hours of labour preferred by underemployed workers (both utilised and unutilised), plus the hours of labour usually provided by employed persons who are not underemployed.

Volume underemployment rate

The volume underemployment rate is the volume of additional hours preferred by underemployed people, expressed as a percentage of the volume of potential labour in the labour force.

Volume unemployment rate

The volume unemployment rate is the volume of hours sought by unemployed people, expressed as a percentage of the volume of potential labour in the labour force.

Wage price index

The wage price index measures changes in the price of wages.

Weekly ordinary time earnings

Weekly ordinary time earnings refers to one week's earnings of employees for the reference period, attributable to award, standard or agreed hours of work. It is calculated before taxation and any other deductions (e.g. superannuation, board and lodging) have been made. Included in ordinary time earnings are:

- award, workplace and enterprise bargaining payments, and other agreed base rates of pay, over-award and over-agreed payments, penalty payments, shift and other allowances;
- commissions and retainers;
- bonuses and similar payments related to the reference period;
- payments under incentive or piecework;
- payments under profit sharing schemes normally paid each pay period;
- payment for leave taken during the reference period;
- all workers' compensation payments made through the payroll; and
- salary payments made to directors.

Excluded are amounts salary sacrificed, non-cash components of salary packages, overtime payments, retrospective pay, pay in advance, leave loadings, severance, termination and redundancy payments, and other payments not related to the reference period.

Weekly total earnings

Weekly total earnings of employees is equal to weekly ordinary time earnings plus weekly overtime earnings.

With paid leave entitlements

Employees (excluding OMIEs) with paid leave entitlements are those who were entitled to either paid holiday leave or paid sick leave (or both) in their main job.

Without paid leave entitlements

Employees (excluding OMIEs) without paid leave entitlements are those who were not entitled to paid holiday leave and paid sick leave, or did not know whether they were entitled to paid holiday leave or paid sick leave in their main job.

Working days lost

Working days lost refers to working days lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in the dispute.

Working days lost per employee involved

Working days lost per employee involved refers to the average number of working days lost per employee involved in the dispute, calculated by dividing the number of working days lost in the dispute by the number of employees involved (both directly and indirectly).

Working days lost per thousand employees

Working days lost per thousand employees are calculated by dividing the total number of working days lost by the total number of employees

in the Australian labour force and multiplying by 1,000.

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
AWE	Average Weekly Earnings
EEH	Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours
ERP	Estimated Resident Population
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ID	Industrial Disputes
ILO	International Labour Organization
JVS	Job Vacancies Survey
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LPI	Labour Price Index
MPHS	Multipurpose Household Survey
MPS	Monthly Population Survey
qtr	Quarter
RSE	Relative Standard Error
WPI	Wage Price Index

Data Cubes (I-Note) - Data Cubes

Table 1 is updated on an annual basis and was last updated for June 2011 in this issue.

Tables 2 - 4 are updated on a quarterly basis.

Tables 5 -7 are updated on an annual basis. All three were updated in the July 2011 issue of Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0).